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The communities of Sunnyside and Grandview are two of only a handful in the Yakima Valley to recently be awarded grant money from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board.

Recently, the city of Sunnyside was awarded two grants totaling \$1,150,000 which will be used to make street improvements and improve pedestrian safety and mobility, according to Sunnyside Engineer Jim Bridges.

The bulk of the money is in the form of a \$1 million Arterial Improvement Program (AIP) grant, which will be used for the South First Street reconstruction project. The remaining \$150,000 is a Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Program grant, which will be used on the Lincoln Avenue sidewalk project, said Bridges.

The AIP money will be used with the \$1,490,250 Federal Demonstration grant the city received last year, according to Bridges. The additional funds will allow the city to complete improvements to 3,500 feet of South First Street, 1,000 feet of South Hill Road and 500 feet of Lincoln Avenue.

The \$150,000 Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Program grant will complement the \$52,000 Traffic Safety Commission grant the city received last year to construct sidewalks on the south side of Lincoln Avenue. School zone safety improvements will also be made along Lincoln Avenue, said Bridges. The project when completed, is expected to total \$220,000. Some of the money will be in matching funds from the city.

Also receiving money from the state transportation improvement board is the city of Grandview, which will be adding Americans with Disabilities Act acceptable ramps to sidewalks in the city. Grandview was awarded \$96,000.

In total, the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board awarded \$70.3 million to 64 cities and agencies across the state. The grant funds come from revenue generated by a 3¢ statewide gas tax, which the Legislature dedicated to the transportation improvement board.

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